

Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church Covington, Ga

A Report for the Year 2015 - 2016

The Presbyterian Women (PW) Year 2015 opened with a Gathering of the Circles and a Salad Supper in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. At this Gathering, among other things, a wish was made for a new PW banner. That wish became a reality a few months later, when with the creativity of Anne Cranford and Sarah Davis- a mother and daughter team- our first banner, depicted below, was produced.



Ann Cranford & Sarah Davis display the new PW Banner

Officers and Circle Chairs installed:

Janet Carmichael—Moderator; Diane Loebler—Vice Moderator

Beth Vining—Secretary; Bettie Miller—Treasurer

Ann Bouchillon with Barbara Martin—Circle I

Carol Dunbar and Jean Blair—Circle II

Stephanie Fortson—Circle III

The New Year's Bible Study

Horizon Bible Study Books for 2015 – 2016, were distributed, featuring the year's study "Come to the Waters" by Judy Record Fletcher. Later, members also embarked on a supplementary study: "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World".

During the meeting, members received reports on Thornwell from Jeanie Liem and the Treasurer's Report from Bettie Miller. [Santa Claus Express](#), [Least Coin](#), [Birthday Offering](#), and [Presbyterian Homes](#) are other areas to PW Circles support.

Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church, Covington, made and donated for the Presbyterian Homes Auction at the Atlanta Athletic Club on October 25 a beautiful basket entitled "Weekend Getaway." The basket, prepared and delivered by Beth Vining, fetched good price at the silent auction.



Beth Vining with benefits for Presbyterian Homes

PW Recognition Sunday

On September 20, during a "PW Moment" of the Sunday Worship Service, members of the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Teams (PWCT) for 2013-2015 and 2015-2017, were recognized. The opportunity was taken to promote interest in wider Circle membership, to thank past officers and leaders for their faithful service, and to welcome those who had been recently installed to serve. Alice Walker was thanked for her service as Moderator (2013-2015) and for her new position as District Five Leader.

Annual PW Gathering of Greater Atlanta

On Sunday, March 20, 2016, our members joined other PW groups at Shallowford Presbyterian Church for the Annual PW Atlanta Presbytery Gathering. Here was an opportunity to display our new banner outside the precincts of our Church, and we proudly did.

Comment [U1]:

A Great Retreat at Salem Camp Ground

Members and Friends met on Saturday, April 14, 2016 for this Retreat. The program included enjoyable ice-breakers, a beautiful worship service, time for quiet meditation, great fellowship, and a delicious lunch prepared by the Salem Hotel Chef.



Lunch-time at the PW Retreat at Salem Camp Ground

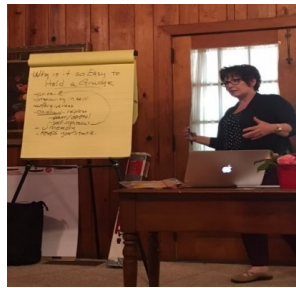
Later, during a leisurely stroll within the Camp Grounds, the group visited The Vaughn Memorial Garden.



Circle Members pause before the Vaughn Memorial at Salem Camp Ground

The Speaker that Day

Soon, it was time for Dr. Cindy Elrod's thought-provoking presentation on "Forgiveness", the theme of the Retreat, and topic for group discussion.



Dr. Cindy Elrod Presents



The Moderator and Dr. Elrod at the Retreat

New Chairs for Circle I

On August 9, 2016 at the PWCT meeting that day, the Team welcomed the new Chairs for Circle II—Jeanie Liem and Cheryl Meichsner. These ladies had graciously accepted the positions vacated by Carol Dunbar and Jean Blair. They were later installed during the New-Year Program, by District Five Leader, Alice Walker.

Blessing of the New Names

After being known as Circles I, II, and III for a while, members decided it was time to identify their Circles with three great Women of the Bible. On Sunday, August 14, 2016, therefore, the new names of the Circles: **Elizabeth, Martha and Ruth** received their blessing from The Rev. Billy Wade during the morning worship service.

A PW Procession

At the start of the service, PW members bearing their new banner processed into the Sanctuary singing Hymn 324, "For All the Faithful Women". Some words of this hymn were adapted to accommodate the new names of the Circles.

For All the Faithful Women

1. For all the faithful women who served in days of old
To you shall thanks be given, to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.
2. We praise you for **Elizabeth**, her hospitality
Bestowed upon young Mary before our Savior's birth.
We sing of busy **Martha**, who toiled with pot and pan,
While sister Mary listened to hear the Savior's plan.
3. Bless **Ruth** who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith.
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death
Oh God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise
That faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

End-of-Year Gathering and Salad Supper

June 14, 2016 heralded the end of another PW year with its Gathering and Salad Supper. The program featured two beautiful musical items: a duet by Alice Walker and Becky Ramsey—"The Typewriter" by Leroy Anderson, and a solo, "From this Valley" by Adrienne Hawley, accompanying herself on the guitar.

Included were reports from Treasurer, Bettie Miller, the Thornwell Update from Jeanie Liem, and the Birthday Offering from Diane Loeble.

At this time also, our devoted Treasurer, Bettie Miller, announced her pending departure from the immediate church community. Very soon, Jean Wolverton, offered to step into that vacancy, and her offer was gladly accepted by the PWCT members. Later, the FPC Church Secretary/Treasurer, Peni Kehoe, performed an audit.

Tokens of Appreciation

Small tokens of appreciation were made to members of the PW Coordinating Team at this End-of-Year Gathering.

Janet Carmichael

Moderator 2015 -2017